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Message Text

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13
ACTION EA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 PRS-01 /005 W
---------- 072987
O R 240915Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4676
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 1102

USINFO ALSO FOR VOA NEWSROOM

USINFO ALSO FOR IEA

BANGKOK FOR HEDGES

BANGKOK AND SAIGON FOR VOA CORRESPONDENTS

STATE S/PRS AND EA/P

CAMBODIAN SITUATIONER

1. GOVERNMENT TROOPS WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON REOPENED ROUTE 4 CONNECTING PHNOM PENH AND THE PART AT KOMPONG SOM. TWO FANK BATTALIONS MADE A LINK-UP AGAINST LIGHT ENEMY RESISTANCE NEAR CHAMCAR LUONG, 80 KILOMETERS NORTH OF KOMPONG SOM. THEY FOUND THE HIGHWAY TRENCHED IN TWO PLACES BUT THIS IS NOT EXPECTED TO DELAY THE TRUCK CONVOYS WAITING TO MOVE AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE.

2. FANK FORCES SEEKING OUT THE ENEMY IN PERIMETER EXPANSION OPERATIONS TO THE EAST OF TAKEO TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY FOUGHT AN EXTENDED ENGAGEMENT WHICH RESULTED IN 25 ENEMY SOLDIERS KILLED, TWO CAPTURED AND THE RECOVERY OF NUMEROUS WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION. FANK CASUALTIES WERE DESCRIBED AS VERY LIGHT.
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3. ON WEDNESDAY THE ENEMY SHELLED THE TOWN OF PREK HO, 10
KILOMETERS SOUTH OF PHNOM PENH, WITH ONE OR MORE 75MM
HOWITZERS, INFLICTING SEVERAL CIVILIAN CASUALTIES.

4. ON THE FRONT SOUTH OF PHNOM PENH,
THETOWN OF PREK HO ALSO
REPORTED COMMUNIST GROUND ASSAULTS WEDNESDAY NIGHT AND EARLY
THURSDAY MORNING, ALL OF WHICH WERE CONTAINED. THERE WERE
COMMUNIST ATTACKS BY FIRE ALONG THE PREK THANAOT RIVER
FRONT BUT NO SIGNIFICANT CASUALTIES REPORTED.
A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE KHMER DEFENDERS WERE
SUPPORTED WEDNESDAY BY 67 SORTIES
BY T-28 FIGHTER BOMBERS AND AU24 AND HUEY GUNSHIPS MOSTLY
IN THE KOMPONG KANTUOT AREA.

5. IN WEEK-LONG FIGHTING ON THE NORTH EAST BANK OF THE MEKONG
OPPOSITE DEY ETH TO THE SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH, KHMER
NAVAL INFANTRY UNITS REPORT KILLING 60 COMMUNIST SOLDIERS
AND WOUNDING AN ESTIMATED 100 OTHERS. THEY ALSO CAPTURED
MANY WEAPONS AND DOCUMENTS. GOVERNMENT LOSSES WERE PUT AT
THREE KILLED AND 33 WOUNDED.

6. AN UNCONFIRMED FANK REPORT SAYS THAT APPROXIMATELY 100 ADDITIONAL
BODIES OF ENEMY SOLDIERS WERE FOUND WEDNESDAY BY TROOPS CLEARING
THE BATTLEFIELD NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH BRINGING TOTAL ENEMY
KILLED IN THE TWO WEEKS OF FIGHTING IN THE AREA TO ABOUT 500.

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